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**WORLD OF SPORT**  
Mark Philippoussis crashes back to earth  
Down Under  
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

## Fatah wins 67 seats on PA Council

JON IMMANUEL

AFTER an update of election results last night, the 88-member Palestinian council will include 52 Fatah members, 15 Fatah activists running as independents, 15 other independents, four Islamists, and two affiliated with other parties.

Many women were disappointed to find they had only four seats, instead of the seven that it looked like they had won.

Zahira Kamal and Rana Nashashibi, both strong advocates of women's rights, lost their bids in Jerusalem. Rawya Shawa lost in Gaza.

This leaves Hanan Ashrawi as the only woman elected in Jerusalem. She came in second with 17,738 votes, way ahead of the rest of the field, beaten only by chief Oslo negotiator and Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmad Qreia (Abu Aib), who logged 18,618.

The other Jerusalem seats will be held by Ziad Abu Zayyad, well-known on Israel Radio as a commentator. He is also an arms control negotiator at multilateral talks and editor of the English-language *Palestine-Israel Journal*. He received 8,397 votes.

Ahmad Zghayech of Fatah, who heads an agricultural marketing cooperative, also won a seat. The other two are Fatah members Hatem Eid, brother of Bassem Eid the human rights activist, and Emile Jarjouna of Fatah, who won the second Christian seat. Ashrawi won the first.

In other changes, PA Sports Minister Azmi Suaidi won in Ramallah, but Housing Minister Zakaria al-Agha lost in Gaza, the only minister to lose. Marwan Kanafani, Arafat's spokesman, also won a seat.

Imad Falouji, the former Hamas activist who defected to Fatah, and Sufian Abu Zayde, well-known from his appearances in the Israeli media as a Fatah and prisoners' spokesman, both lost in North Gaza.

Outstanding winners in their districts were former Washington chief negotiator Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, who heads what is now a one-member National Democratic Coalition, with 57,795 votes in Gaza City. He was followed by Fakri Shakouri, Gaza's military intelligence chief, with 54,863. Salah Taamari, married to the former queen Dina of Jordan, scored 17,876 votes in Bethlehem, twice as many as his nearest rival.

The figures were supplied by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center.

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Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and retired general Colin Powell meet in Washington yesterday. (AP)

## Israel, Tunisia to open interest sections

HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL and Tunisia will open interest sections in the Belgian embassies in Tunis and Tel Aviv by April 15, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced yesterday.

The offices will facilitate bilateral "political consultations, travel, and trade," Christopher, flanked by Foreign Ministers Ehud Barak and Habib Ben Yahia, told reporters at the State Department.

Barak said the move "is an important step forward in the long journey to normalized relations between Israel and its neighbors in the Middle East and through-

out the Mediterranean ... I look forward to the further development of our bilateral relationship with Tunisia."

Christopher called the development "an important step to widen the circle of peace."

Israel will open a liaison office in Gaza "very soon," Ben Yahia said.

"This step today reflects how far the peace process has come and how dramatically it is changing the Middle East for the bet-

ter," Christopher said.

The announcement followed a four-hour luncheon meeting at which the three discussed ways to "maximize the benefit" of the agreement, Christopher said, adding that the US will "continue to stand by those who take risks for peace."

In their earlier bilateral meeting, Ben Yahia and Christopher discussed expanding bilateral economic ties and increasing US investment in Tunisia through

the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The two also discussed threats against Tunisia in light of its advancement in the peace process, and Christopher said the US takes "such threats seriously."

Asked when relations with Israel will be fully normalized, Ben Yahia said Tunisia's policy is that there must be "harmonization between the normalization process and the peace process itself."

He added that the complex set of agreements that need to be concluded to end the Israeli-Syri-

## FM: Elections won't dictate peace terms

HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON

THE 1996 Israeli and American elections will not dictate Jerusalem's approach to negotiating a peace treaty with Syria, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday.

"I think the US understands our position - that you can't tie the diplomatic process to the elections. We have to handle the advancement of the process according to the will of the parties to reach peace," Barak told Israeli reporters following a White House meeting with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, at which President Bill Clinton briefly participated.

"What we get done before the elections we get done ... and what we don't we'll get done after the elections," he said.

This approach will help convince the Israeli public that the Peres government is handling the negotiations in a "responsible manner," Barak said.

"It wouldn't be right to conduct a negotiation when it has a target date hanging over it, or even [create] the sense that we are willing to cut a deal at any price. A target date has a nature that gives the other side an extra card," said Barak.

He added that the complex set of agreements that need to be concluded to end the Israeli-Syri-

an conflict - including pacts on water, terrorism, Lebanon, and security arrangements - "cannot be solved with the wave of a hand." This is what accounts for the "slow" progress in the peace talks, Barak said. The talks resume in Maryland tomorrow.

Clinton told reporters the US will stand by what the parties conclude, but would not impose any solutions. This US approach to the peace process has accounted for the diplomatic successes in the Middle East over the last three years, he said.

At the State Department earlier, Christopher told reporters that the US, Syria, and Israel are "all aware the peace process is entering a critical phase and we have a lot of work ahead of us."

He said he and Clinton hope that a peace agreement could be reached this year.

Barak, on his first visit to the US as foreign minister, is to meet with congressional leaders today before flying to Israel tonight.

Syria's highest political body said yesterday the resumed peace negotiations with Israel are "a positive step" on the way toward achieving a peace settlement.

The Central Command of the National Progressive Front, which groups six political parties dominated by the ruling Baath Party, reiterated Syria's commitment to "a just and comprehensive peace," based on an Israeli withdrawal from Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

## Meshulam gang faces probe for taunting Shahal

RAINE MARCUS

A PROBE is to be launched into the activities of Uzi Meshulam's followers, following a TV news item broadcast Sunday night showing their children hanging Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal in effigy.

National investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Levy, who announced the investigation, said Meshulam's followers have set Shahal as a target. In the film shown on Channel 1, the supporters' children danced around the effigy in Haifa chanting, "Shahal, your time is up."

**MKs discuss threats to Shahal; Meshulam petitions for release, Page 3**

However, Levy vehemently denied a report that armed militia groups of Meshulam's supporters are being formed in the territories.

"There are no such armed militia groups," said the Israel Police spokesman. However an investigation has been launched by the National Crimes Squad into allegations of illegal activities and distributing seditious material.

Since the 1994 siege at Meshulam's Yehnd home, which culminated in his imprisonment, police have continually warned against possible dangers by fringe elements of the group.

One senior police officer said then: "The 'fun' is just starting. These people are dangerous. Meshulam has all the psychological characteristics of a sect leader - brilliant, charismatic, paranoid, mad, and his behavior is without limits. He also has extraordinary powers of persuasion. His supporters follow him blindly."

A TV broadcast yesterday

showed Meshulam's supporters singing a jingle which included the words: "Shahal - a high-class thing ... at Yehud he tried to shut all our mouths ... He murdered Shlomi [Assoulin, shot dead when he fired at a police helicopter] in cold blood ... Shahal, your time is up."

A shocked Shahal said yesterday the police would not respond hastily, but that Meshulam's group is extremely dangerous. Some two weeks ago three of Meshulam's followers were arrested near Shahal's Haifa home after posting anti-Shahal fliers through postboxes in the area.

"After the murder of prime minister Rabin there has been a continuation of shocking material," said Shahal yesterday. "It shows us that we have awoken to a new era."

A senior police officer said yesterday police must investigate and be "extremely careful, especially in view of the latest anti-Shahal activities."

"This is the first time a minister has been deliberately targeted," said the officer. "We cannot ignore the danger this group poses. As we have learned recently, actions begin with words."

Security around Shahal has been beefed up in recent weeks, but the film of his effigy hanging "is the last straw," said the officer.

Meshulam and his group have always displayed anti-police and anti-establishment banners, vowing vengeance for the "disappearance of thousands of Yemennite children" some 40 years ago. They have not targeted a specific public figure until now. Meanwhile, the Police Ministry, together with Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, is considering splitting up Meshulam and his 11 followers, currently incarcerated together in the Leshem wing of Ramle's Ayalon Prison.

## Amir trial resumes as High Court rejects plea for delay

EVELYN GORDON

THE trial of Yigal Amir will resume today in Tel Aviv District Court, after the High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition asking for a postponement.

It is still not known how Amir will plead, since lawyers Jonathan Goldberg and Mordechai Ofri have said their client "only meant to paralyze Yitzhak Rabin" and not to kill him. Another possible line of defense will be insanity, and Goldberg has already said he intends to bring medical experts to testify on Amir's mental state.

Goldberg wanted the trial postponed until after the Shamgar Commission has presented its conclusions, saying the commission's findings might influence his line of defense. He also charged that he has not yet received all the evidence from the District Attorney's Office, and that he has not yet had a chance to study some of what he has received, because it was given to him only within the last few days.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Edmund Levy had rejected Goldberg's request for a continuance, saying the Shamgar Commission's findings are irrelevant to the case, and that the state had already given Goldberg all the evidence. Justices Theodor Orr, Yitzhak Zamir, and Zvi Tal upheld this decision.

The High Court does not interfere in procedural decisions made by lower courts about a trial, the justices said. Even if it did, however, there would be no justification for doing so in this case, because Goldberg's claims were groundless, they added.

Furthermore, they noted, Levy said he would reconsider Goldberg's request for a delay if circumstances changed. If new evidence is received, the defense is free to reapply, they said. Raine Marcus contributed to this report.

# FOREX

## Investors Centre

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Postal Bank to fill Friday banking gap

WHEN the commercial banks say "Never on Friday" in a few months, the Postal Bank will take over some of the slack. Negotiations are proceeding between the big banks and the Postal Authority...

JUDY SIEGEL

ence yesterday, said that five Postal Bank branches already carry out foreign currency exchange transactions for tourists without charging fees...

ing a profit-making, state-owned company, turning its Postal Bank into a subsidiary competing with the commercial banks - even carrying out some stock market transactions...

lis move each year and many fail to report address changes to the Interior Ministry, there is no other accurate list, and many letters go undelivered, he said.



Likud party chief Benjamin Netanyahu (left), former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (center), and MK Dov Shilansky attend the funeral yesterday in Jerusalem of ideologue Israel Eldad.

Israel Eldad, at 86

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL Eldad, who was a pre-state underground leader and for years the ideological guide of the right wing, died yesterday at the age of 86. The Likud said it had lost the "spiritual father of the Hebrew revolution..."

Meshulam plus seven petition for release

EVELYN GORDON

UZI Meshulam and seven of his followers yesterday asked the Supreme Court to let them out of prison until it rules on their appeal against the conviction for which they are serving time.

September, but has not yet issued its verdict. Attorney Zadok Hugi, representing the group, argued that if the prisoners are not released now, most will have already served so much of their sentence...

Knesset debates threat from Meshulam followers

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday discussed the continued threats against Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal by followers of Uzi Meshulam, after the subject was raised as an urgent motion on the agenda by Dedi Zuckerman...

they shot at police in Yehud and wounded a prison service officer in Kiryat Malachi. "The whole House warns against the danger," said Speaker Shevah Weiss...

Wildcat strike results in airport delays

HAIM SHAPIRO

PASSENGERS at Ben-Gurion Airport faced delays and inconvenience yesterday as a result of an open-ended strike by Airports Authority workers. The workers called a meeting at 4 p.m., thus delaying the unloading of baggage from an Alitalia flight from Rome...

Police crack case of stolen hanukkiot

BILL HUTMAN

FIVE ancient hanukkiot stolen last month in Jerusalem were recovered last week when a lawyer tried to sell them back to the Israel Museum.

and allegedly told her he knew the hanukkiot were stolen, and suggested they meet at his home later that night. He said he would sell the hanukkiot - valued by museum officials at about \$100,000 - for \$100,000, and also demanded another \$7,500 for his "services."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police: Oberkovich should be charged The police have recommended charges be filed against Hapoel chairman Yoram Oberkovich and former director-general Ya'acov Avimor for financial wrongdoings, police sources said.

Four cops injured in Mea She'arim riot Four policemen were lightly injured during a riot that broke out yesterday after tax collectors converged on a store in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim section, police said.

Kidnapped Jerusalem cabbie escapes A Jerusalem taxi driver was kidnapped by three Arabs before dawn yesterday, but managed to break free after a fight, police said.

ICCI publishes annual guide The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel has published its annual Guide to Interreligious and Intercultural Activities in Israel.

EI Al passenger pulled off plane An El Al passenger was arrested yesterday by British police at Stanstead Airport near London after refusing to leave the first-class section of a New York-bound flight.

Two Thai workers found dead Two Thai workers were found dead in their Ganei Yehuda apartment yesterday. They were discovered by their employer who came to take them to work.

Bill would protect whistleblowers

LIAT COLLINS

COURTS will be able to demand that whistleblowers fired for warning of corruption in the workplace be returned to their jobs and compensated under a bill which was prepared for first reading in the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday.

Katz said the intention is not to judge whether the worker was right, but to prevent a situation in which somebody who exposes corruption will be punished by the employer without being able to defend himself in court.

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# Hillary Clinton to answer senators' questions in writing

JOHN SOLOMON  
WASHINGTON

HOPING to dispel doubts about her integrity, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton offered to answer senators in writing concerning several new questions in the Whitewater affair.

Chief among them is how Clinton's law firm billing records suddenly appeared inside the White House residence — two years after investigators subpoenaed them and the White House claimed they could not be found.

In a five-sentence letter yesterday to the Republican-led Senate Whitewater Committee, the first lady's private lawyer, David Kendall, noted Clinton has answered written question from the panel in the past.

"I invite you to proceed," Kendall wrote committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, who suggested the idea last week. "She is certainly willing to do so again in an effort to bring your inquiry to a conclusion."

The offer breaks an impasse that began last week when both the committee and first lady acknowledged that new evidence emerging in the Whitewater investigation warranted new answers from Clinton, but neither

side offered to go first.

Last Thursday, a loog-time Clinton aide testified how the first lady's long-sought billing records abruptly showed up on a table in the White House third-floor living quarters in August.

The aide, Carolyn Huber, testified she believed someone had deliberately put the records there.

Huber moved them into a box without looking at them and rediscovered them this month, when the White House finally turned over the records to investigators.

Republicans charge the billing records contradict some of Clinton's earlier answers in the Whitewater affair, including that she did just minimal legal work for the failed Arkansas savings and loan owned by her Whitewater business partner.

The manner in which the records were found surprised even White House lawyers, who had claimed for months the records could not be found.

They turned up in a secure room frequented only by the president, Hillary Clinton and their closest friends. (AP)



A shop owner in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, surveys the floods in front of his store, after the Potomac River rose eight feet beyond normal flood levels. Residents placed sand bags in an effort to stem the tide. (Reuters)

# Eastern US mops up after flood misery

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Weary rescue workers mopped up yesterday after floods that swamped wide areas of the eastern United States leaving behind a tide of misery, sodden homes and a wave of political recrimination.

Thousands of residents who were forced to flee their homes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland returned to flooded basements, ruined property and swamped streets.

Television footage showed an entire house in Wheeling, West Virginia, being swept down the swollen Ohio river.

In Washington, commuters faced traffic chaos as major roads near the Potomac River remained closed for a second day.

The city's National Airport remained open after fighting off a threat from flood tides over the weekend, but the main access road from downtown was closed.

In Georgetown and the historic Old Town Alexandria, property owners assessed damage

after the Potomac subsided from levels some two meters above normal.

"It looks like the worst is over. The river is subsiding now and we hope to get back to normal in the next couple of days," said city official John Crawford.

In Pennsylvania, Transportation Secretary Federico Pena and five Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials planned a fly-over inspection to assess state Governor Tom Ridge's claim that Washington was not doing enough to help.

FEMA officials said the floods killed 10 people in Pennsylvania, and more were still unaccounted for.

The federal agency recognized only the counties along the swollen Susquehanna River as disaster areas. Ridge wanted dozens of counties included.

"Those people in Washington need to get out from behind their desks... and tell that to people who lost their farms, homes and businesses all across this state," Ridge said on Sunday night.

A 30-member FEMA team will set up an office in Harrisburg to process claims.

But the White House yesterday said Ridge, a Republican, "ran his mouth" when he should have been documenting damage to speed assistance.

"We shouldn't be in some public relations contest, when there is the livelihood of citizens in Pennsylvania at stake and when the main thing is to promptly and effectively respond to the consequences of the flood," said White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry.

"He ran his mouth instead of getting the work done that would have led to the assistance," McCurry said.

The flood forced the evacuation of 1,000 residents in the state capital of Harrisburg, including the governor.

# Japan cult member admits producing sarin gas

TOKYO (AP) — A senior member of a doomsday cult admitted in court yesterday that he produced sarin nerve gas, which prosecutors say the cult used to attack commuters on Tokyo subways last March 20.

Seichi Endo, 35, is considered a key witness for the prosecution in its attempt to prove that Aum Shinri Kyo cult leader Shoko Asahara directed all key phases of the subway attack.

Twelve people were killed and more than 5,500 got sick from the attack, the climax of a series of murders and kidnappings blamed on the cult.

According to prosecutors, Asahara directly gave orders for sarin production to only two people — cult science chief Hideo Murai, who was murdered last April, and Endo.

In yesterday's testimony, Endo did not discuss what kind of orders Asahara gave him. But he said it is "absolutely certain" that he and two other cult leaders, Tomomasa Nakagawa and Masumi Tsuchiya, produced sarin gas.

Endo, a former chief of Aum's "health and welfare unit," is accused of murder and attempted murder in connection with the sarin attack and other crimes.

"It is natural for victims and bereaved families to feel anger and hatred toward Aum Shinri Kyo," Endo told the Tokyo District Court according to his lawyer, Kenji Nozaki. "Nothing I say could ever excuse myself. I am sorry and I apologize."

Endo's cooperation is important for prosecutors because two others accused of sarin production, Nakagawa and Tsuchiya, have disputed some of the charges.

# Moslems boycott religious classes in 40 UK schools

LONDON (AP) — More than 1,500 Moslem pupils in 40 schools in northern England have been ordered by parents to boycott religious education classes, and a Moslem leader says the move could spread.

The parents in the Kirkclee area of west Yorkshire, which has a large Asian immigrant population, say the syllabus in the classes is too orientated toward Christianity.

Religious education is an established part of the curriculum in Britain's state sector education system. It aims to give students factual historical details about leading world religions. By law, it must feature Christianity but each local education authority must take account of other religions.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from religious education classes, but the size of the

boycott in Kirkclee, which began three weeks ago, has worried education authorities.

The Moslem students involved in the boycott are still attending the rest of the classes in the school curriculum.

Jahangir Mohammed, deputy leader of a group called the Moslem Parliament which represents Moslems but has no legislative power, warned on Sunday that the boycott would spread unless the government acts.

Another group, the Association of Moslem Schools, said discontent among Moslem parents with religious education classes in schools is widespread. The group's development officer, Ibrahim Hewitt, told BBC radio: "Moslem children in state schools have had a problem for a long time on religious education, not just in Kirkclee, all over the country."

# New York's 5th Ave. is world's most expensive

NEW YORK (Reuters) — New York's Fifth Avenue ranked as the world's most expensive street for the second year in a survey of retail rents.

On Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street, which houses Tiffany and Co. and Trump Tower, the annual rents are \$500 per square foot, according to the eighth annual survey by the Hirschfeld Group real estate consultants.

New York's 57th Street, which the borders that area and is home to the Warner Brothers Studio store, moved into second place this year with rents of \$440 per square foot, knocking down Tokyo's The Ginza to third place with rents of \$350 per square foot.

Rents have fallen in many areas since the real estate boom led to the all-time high price of \$675 for the Ginza in 1990, Michael Hirschfeld said.

The top three streets have been trading rankings for years and will probably continue to do so without any serious challengers, he said.

The character of many of the world's most expensive streets is

changing as multi-national corporations, such as Warner Brothers or Walt Disney, open stores that also serve as marketing devices and tourist attractions, he said.

"If you open a store selling \$500,000 necklaces in an area that has 40 million tourists a year, not many of them can buy them. But they can buy \$3 Daffy Duck key chains and they want them," Hirschfeld said.

New York's Madison Avenue between 57th Street and 69th Street and San Francisco's Post and Stockton Streets tied for fourth place. They were followed in the rankings by Paris' Champs Elysee, Geneva's Rue de Rhone, Paris' Place Vendome, London's Bond Street, Singapore's Orchard Road, with Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Calif., and Rome's Via Condotti in a tie.

Hirschfeld said that he thought Fifth Avenue, which has a "stragulated" vacancy rate of 1 percent, may go higher if any property does become available.

Rome's Via Veneto and Paris' Rue de Faubourg St. Honore may make the list next year, he said.

# 'NY Times' begins electronic version

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times became available yesterday on the World Wide Web with most of the news and feature articles and classified advertising that appear in the printed editions.

The electronic version also contains reporting that does not appear in print, the Times said.

"Our site is designed to take full advantage of the evolving capabilities offered by the Internet," said Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr.

The electronic paper will generate advertising revenue and, for now, no fee will be charged for basic access in the United States, said Martin Nisenzon, president of The New York Times Electronic Media Co., a Times subsidiary.

But computer users who want access must subscribe, and will be charged fees for copying articles from Times archives dating back 15 years and for a clipping service, based on key words, that sends articles to an individual user's electronic mailbox.

The paper said readers who connect to the electronic paper from outside the United States will be offered a 30-day trial without charge, but will eventually face a subscription fee.

The New York Times On The Web is at <http://www.nytimes.com>.

# Irish pub owner warbles way into Guinness book

LOUDONVILLE, New York (AP) — Pub owner Eamonn McGirr can look forward to some sleep after warbling his way back into the Guinness Book of Records by singing continuously for 11 consecutive days.

McGirr, 55, broke the record Sunday night during a live broadcast of television program lasting several days to raise money for cerebral palsy. He sang the final notes of the Irish tune, "Till Tell Me Ma," then was showered with cheers and green balloons.

"It's a hell of a wonderful feeling," said McGirr, who last set the record 17 years ago when it stood at 5 1/2 days. A man in India later broke the record, singing continuously for 10 days and 22 hours.

McGirr's latest attempt began January 10, and the rules stipulated that he could hum or sing anything, even read the newspaper

to a tune. He was allowed a 5-minute break each hour, and McGirr awoke up enough time to catch a few hours sleep during the ordeal.

He used up his entire repertoire of Irish tunes, but despite the fatigue he felt at the end, McGirr maintained his quick Irish wit.

Asked how his life would change after the record, McGirr replied: "The following songs will not be sung: 'Danny Boy,' 'Green Alligators'..."

After breaking the record, McGirr headed over to his Irish pub in this Albany suburb to add a couple of hours to his record to make it an even 11 consecutive days. More than 200 people jammed the bar to celebrate.

"It's like St. Patrick's Day," said patron Richard Straight. "His voice sounds terrific."

# 1 in 4 Russians earns a million... rubles

MOSCOW (AP) — Nearly one-quarter of Russians now make more than a million rubles, that is, Per month.

The sum — which equals a little more than \$200 — sounds mind-boggling when compared to just five years ago, when several hundred rubles a month was a good salary. But it remains modest in Russia, where prices for many goods and services have risen sharply.

Another quarter of the population earned less over the course of 1995 than the subsistence wage, according to Russia's State Statistics Committee. In figures carried yesterday by the Interfax news agency, the committee put the subsistence wage at 327,000 rubles — a little more than \$75 at current exchange rates.

The committee said its figures indicate that incomes for low- and middle-income Russians are stabilizing.

# 2 missing boys spend night in toy store

GATINEAU, Quebec (AP) — More than 150 volunteers who searched all night for two young brothers should have started in the logical place — Toys-R-Us.

Antony Cerezo, 8, and his brother Jerome, 6, were found safe and sound when manager Michel Legault opened the store yesterday morning, police Sgt. Richard Longpre said.

"I guess it's every kid's dream to be locked up in a toy store overnight, and they realized their dream," Legault said. "They played cops and robbers, rode bikes and played ball."

When the novelty wore off, Legault said, the boys apparently broke a small window in an attempt to get out.

"At the end there, [the boys] were very worried because it's been a loog night and they haven't slept very much," Longpre said.

They went to the store by themselves Sunday afternoon and were accidentally locked in.

Antony said they fell asleep in a playhouse and when they woke up there was nothing to do but play and eat chocolate Easter eggs.

Their mother, Linda, doesn't plan any discipline.

"No, no. We're buying pizza because they didn't eat all night."

## MAIMONIDES

### Medical Writings

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Japan cult member admits producing sarin gas



Recently disturbed earth

A close-up of a US Government surveillance photograph shows one of several alleged mass graves in Nova Kasaba, Bosnia, said to contain the bodies of thousands killed by the Bosnian Serbs.

### Prosecutor meets Bosnians on war dead

SARAJEVO (AP) - The international war-crimes tribunal's top prosecutor met yesterday with Bosnian leaders and NATO commanders to discuss the fate of thousands of Muslims missing and feared dead.

Serb forces. Shattuck said he told Milosevic yesterday "that what I had seen clearly corroborated with the eyewitness testimony of the survivors on mass executions. And that clearly to me indicates that evidence that has been compiled so far is very clear of mass executions in the area," Shattuck said.

"I also discussed... the urgency of releasing all prisoners of war immediately, unilaterally," Shattuck said in Belgrade before flying back to Sarajevo.

## Chechen rebels: We will trade hostages for bodies

CHECHEN rebels still holding dozens of hostages from a January 9 raid won't free most of them as planned unless the bodies of their fellow militants are returned, news reports said yesterday.

MAXIM KORZHOV. GROZNY, Russia. But he said federal authorities were still identifying the bodies and the issue would have to be discussed with them.

bel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. The rebels proposed exchanging the workers for about 30 guerrillas captured by the Russians during the fighting in Pervomayskaya, Interfax said, quoting officials of the Moscow-backed Chechen government and the power company.

### Iran, Armenia, Turkmenistan sign pact

TEHRAN (AP) - Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the banking, trade and transport fields, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported late Sunday.

### Jordan slashes trade with Iraq almost in half

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan has decided to slash its exports to Iraq this year by nearly half, citing high debts to the kingdom by the beleaguered Baghdad government, officials said yesterday.

Ragheb set the new volume at talks in Amman last week to renew the annual trade protocol, a document that is never made public.

### WORLD BRIEFS

**Nine killed in Pakistan shootout**  
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - At least 10 gunmen opened fire on a police van transporting murder suspects to court in central Pakistan yesterday, leaving nine people dead, including three police officers.

**Three killed in Bulgaria bomb explosion**  
SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Three people were killed and two seriously injured when a bomb exploded outside a downtown pizzeria, police said yesterday.

**US court rules against Christian Scientists**  
WASHINGTON (AP) - Four Christian Scientists lost a Supreme Court appeal of a \$1.5 million award they were ordered to pay over the death of a boy whose diabetes was treated with prayer instead of medical care.

**Report: Yeltsin will run for second term**  
MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin said yesterday that he probably plans to run for a second term in elections in June, a news agency said. It was the strongest indication yet the 64-year-old leader would seek reelection.

### Rwandan refugees flee to Tanzania; army burns camp

NAIROBI (AP) - About 16,000 Rwandan refugees were stranded yesterday near Burundi's border with Tanzania, unable to cross the closed frontier and reluctant to return to their burned out camp.

during the flight from Ntamba camp late Saturday and early Sunday, or when the army set fire to the camp on Sunday.

Burundian troops torched the huts Sunday of the few hundred Rwandan refugees who remained at Ntamba camp in northern Burundi, said Hitoshi Misa, the Burundi country director for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Tanzania, which already has about 500,000 Rwandan refugees, has closed its border to refugees in Burundi.

### Sri Lanka military helicopter with 32 aboard feared shot down by rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - An air force helicopter with 32 people aboard disappeared while flying over northern Sri Lanka yesterday, and Tamil rebels may have shot it down, an official said.

In another development yesterday, government troops repulsed a rebel attack on a Sinhalese village in northeastern Sri Lanka, but at least 22 people were killed in the fighting. More than 100 Tamil separatists launched the attack shortly after midnight in the Amuradhapura district, Maj. Tikak Dumarwila, a military spokesman, said in Colombo, the capital.

### US National Book Critics Circle nominations announced

NEW YORK (AP) - A study of poet Walt Whitman's life and Richard Ford's novel about a former sportswriter were among 25 titles nominated for 1995 US National Book Critics Circle awards.

Other nominees are: FICTION: Mrs. Ted Bliss, Stanley Elkin (Hyperion); Galatea 2.2, Richard Powers (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Moo, Jane Smiley (Knopf); The Tent of Orange Mist, Paul West (Scribner).

A Civil Action, Jonathan Harr (Random House); Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder, Lawrence Weschler (Pantheon); The All-American Skin Game, or, The Decoy of Race: The Long and the Short of It, 1990-1994, Stanley Crouch (Pantheon); The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France, Robert Darnton (W.W. Norton); The Castle of Indolence: On Poetry, Poets and Poetasters, Thomas M. Disch (Picador); Paul Celan: Poet, Survivor, Jew, John Felstiner (Yale University Press); After the Fact, Clifford Geertz (Harvard University Press).

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**PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION PROGRAM**  
Program Description  
The embassy of the United States of America in Jerusalem and the Consulate General of the United States in Jerusalem announce the Palestinian-Israeli Cooperation Program (PICP), a small grants program designed to provide seed money for significant projects featuring nongovernmental and private institutional cooperation among Palestinians and Israelis. The emphasis will be on innovative programs fostering people-to-people contact which advance the 1993 Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and subsequent agreements. All Projects must demonstrate the likelihood that funding will lead to a sustainable future relationship among the cooperating organization and institutions.  
Project Priority Areas  
The program review committee seeks a balanced portfolio of projects addressing health, education, economics and trade, arts, youth activities, social and natural sciences, and other appropriate areas with an emphasis on broadening and deepening contacts between Palestinians and Israelis. No allocation of funds among priorities has been made.  
Project Support  
The projects supported by PICP should be completable within 18 months of grant award. Grant amounts will average about \$35,000, with an anticipated range of \$20,000 to \$50,000. A total of \$500,000 is anticipated to be available.  
How and When to Apply:  
Interested parties should request the program guidelines at the following addresses:  
Tel-Aviv Grant officer-PICP, Econ Section, American Embassy, 71 Hayarkon St, General Tel-Aviv 63903, Israel  
Jerusalem Mr. Paul Sutphin, American Consulate, 18 Agron St Jerusalem, Israel  
or at the following fax no: 972-3-510-2846  
Proposals may be submitted at any time, but consideration for funding is subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The first reviews are expected to take place around the middle of February 1996.

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**Monday January 29**  
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**Thursday February 22**  
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NIS 160 (including full lunch).  
Tour guide: Archaeologist AVNER GOREN

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pickup and return, drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Meshulam madness

FEW phenomena have so puzzled Israelis as the saga of Uzi Meshulam and his fanatic followers. The group is known to be extremely dangerous...

Information super-roadblock

CHINA'S incomprehensible decision to gag the foreign media that provides the world's opinion-makers and markets with reliable information...

ment to address the Yemenite community's demand for a thorough investigation of the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s...

particular is the most essential supplier of high-quality economic news to the world's stock, commodities, and financial markets.



A world in a single life

IN its vigorous opposition to territorial concessions, the 'religious right' contends that the life of the nation incorporates a territorial dimension ultimately worth the sacrifice of one's life.

the light of day. Likewise, we can no longer ignore the sacred principle of pikuah nefesh, concern for a human life in distress...

Judaism also passionately respects the inviolate rights of the individual. The warp and woof of Jewish theology has been shaped by a bipolar grasp of the complexities of life...

Although a segment of Israeli society believes that more Jewish lives will be saved by holding onto land now being ceded to the Palestinian Authority...

Global warming bogeyman

I have a theory about the earthquakes, mudslides, brush fires and floods that have lately devastated California...

So global warming has now become a theory of everything: bad rain, snow, heat, cold, storms, droughts...

Now, I know my theory is somewhat antique, indeed fundamentalist. No more, however, than the theory being peddled in the elite US media...

But theology is rarely dented by fact. One commentator lists not just the snowstorm of '96, but last year's heat waves, the flood of '93, and Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki...

Now comes the exact opposite climatic event - a monster snowstorm and that, too, is caused by our sinning against G-d?

Moreover, explains Michaels: 'the problem with generating mid-Atlantic snow is, in any case, not a lack of moisture. The problem is

Nukes & nerves

GWYNNE DYER

THE first session of the conference that is supposed to lead to a total ban on nuclear tests opened in Geneva yesterday...

Hurrah for India's Central Bureau of Investigation

To acknowledge what India had done would have been to admit the NPT had failed - and its ability to stop other countries from taking the same road depended on the myth of universality...

Global warming bogeyman

getting enough cold air from southeastern Canada into a storm. Yet all projections for an enhanced greenhouse effect reduce the depth of cold air...

But the BJP's stock in trade is xenophobic nationalism and Hindu chauvinism, so Rao's first line of defense was simple: Stage another nuclear test, and steal the national vote back.

The BJP's stock in trade is xenophobic nationalism and Hindu chauvinism, so Rao's first line of defense was simple: Stage another nuclear test, and steal the national vote back.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INCOME DISTRIBUTION Sir, - In his article of January 12, 'Why Ora can't sleep,' Yosef Goell seems to have confused his terms. He defines 'egalitarian distribution of income' and 'a fair society' to be one and the same.

A VERY NEGATIVE IMAGE Sir, - The law of Israel forbids the publication of details (such as the picture) of the head of the GSS. Whatever the reasons for this may be, and I, like many others, am not convinced they are valid, it should be upheld by the media until otherwise legislated.

BATTERED WIFE Sir, - The pomposity of your correspondent Thelma Jacobson (Letters of January 15, 'Murder is murder') is beyond belief as is her linkage of Carmela Butbut with Rabbi assassin Yigal Amir. I feel this lady has suffered enough and will indeed be hammed all her life by events, but she has paid the price for her action and does not need the pompous Thelma to add to her pain.

NETANYA spot my childhood with a battered wife, my mother, and know the stress, the pain - physical pain she suffered - suffering that stayed with her to the end of her life. No, Madam, your comments are ill-timed and ill-conceived and I suggest you think long and hard before making similar comments in the future.

Glo... Os... Jazz... Pianist... Seven... is pu... is pu... is pu... is pu... is pu...







BUSINESS & FINANCE

Both indexes rise slightly

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS closed little changed yesterday, as many investors hold index options that expire this week and will be profitable if the Maof Index stays at current levels.

"The only thing that holds back the market is the Maof options expiring Thursday," said Italo Azoulay, who manages about \$70 million in securities for BLT Securities here.

Fourth-quarter earnings reports also should start trickling in this week. "The sentiment is quite positive," he said.

The Two-Sided Index closed up 0.2 percent at 211.26, while the Maof Index advanced 0.17 percent to 220.41.

The most active issue was holding company Clal Israel, which went up 2.5 percent on turnover of more than NIS 10.2m.

The FTSE Index closes firmer. LONDON - Leading shares closed modestly firmer, leaving the FTSE 100 at a new record.

PARIS - Shares finished lower as investors took profits on a bounce in the price of bullion through the psychological significant AS400 level.

ZURICH - Shares ended mixed after a volatile day and dealers said the slightly easing dollar and lower government bond futures pressured the market.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed higher for the third consecutive session yesterday as investors snapped up some economically sensitive shares.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes sections for Commercial Banks, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, and Investment Companies.

Two-sided trading

Table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes sections for AFTERNOON and MORNING trading.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

INFLATION STOCK MARKET table showing various market indices and their changes.

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies like Am I, Am I, and Am I.

INFLATION MONEY MARKET table showing Dollar cross rates and interest rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table listing various international market data.

INFLATION COMMODITIES table showing various commodity prices.

INFLATION METALS table showing various metal prices.

INFLATION CURRENCY CROSS RATES table showing various currency exchange rates.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK advertisement with logo and contact information.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, and ZURICH.

Blue chips end higher for third day running

WALL STREET REPORT

Table of Wall Street report data including stock prices and market indices.





# Bipartisan move aims to change electoral system

LIAT COLLINS

THE Labor Knesset faction yesterday unanimously decided to change the electoral system, however the change would only affect the elections for the 15th Knesset, scheduled for 2000.

The idea being proposed is to divide Knesset lists into 60 candidates to be elected on a regional basis and 60 on a national one.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres supported the idea. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, although in favor, expressed reservations.

Peres reminded the MKs that the Labor Party conference had supported a mixed national and regional election system.

He said it is inconceivable that the prime minister be elected in direct elections and the Knesset through a proportional system.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish claimed that the Knesset now favors changing the system, and that Labor should not let the small parties veto it.

Before the faction meeting, a different discussion had been held on the subject with Justice Minister David Liha'i, Internal

Security Minister Moshe Shahal, Netanyahu, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli, Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav, Haggai Merom (Labor), and Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

The background to the meeting was a bill drawn up by eight MKs from different parties. The proposal speaks of two options: either 60 MKs being chosen on a regional basis and 60 on a national basis, or 30 MKs being elected regionally and 90 nationally.

The latter is preferred by the National Religious Party, whose MKs are also seeking to change the current system.

Zucker said the bill could pass this Knesset and go into effect for the elections in 2000.

Liha'i said the Knesset has been dealing with the issue for eight years, and "it is time to make a decision."

The proposal preserves the proportional principle so as not to upset the smaller parties. The

country would be divided into 20 regions; three MKs would be elected for each region.

Shahal said that to maintain a consensus, the reform should be carried out in two stages, 30:30 first and then 60:60. Zvilli suggested raising the electoral threshold from 1.5 percent to 2%.

Katsav warned against harming the representation of smaller parties and said that ideally at least a third of the Knesset should be from smaller factions. He suggested creating a committee of MKs and academics to submit recommendations.

Netanyahu said that although the principle of direct elections is important, there are certain faults with the proposed bill, above all that the smallness of the country would make it difficult to divide it into 20 regions. He also suggested establishing a committee of MKs to present their recommendations within a month.

Zvilli said postponing the decision by a month could result in burying the bill.

## Ouman flares up; Polgat reneges on deal

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE dispute between Polgat and workers at the Ouman textile plant in Ofakim flared up again yesterday, as Polgat reneged on the severance pay agreement reached 10 days ago.

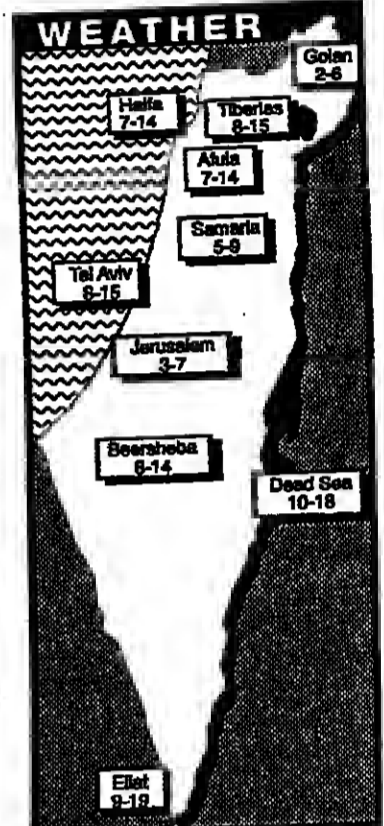
As a result, Ouman's workers again barricaded themselves in the closed plant and set fire to tires at the entrance, while the Histadrut gave the workers a free hand in their contacts with management.

Polgat, which had agreed after exhausting negotiations to pay Ouman's 130 fired workers severance pay ranging from 45% to 95% above the required minimum, announced yesterday that the basis for calculating the pay is 72% less than the sum previously agreed upon.

In addition, Polgat stated that it would not include the benefits component in the workers' wages - 30% of their pay - as part of the severance pay agreement.

Evelyn Gordon adds:

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved NIS 4 million to combat unemployment in Ofakim, which has recently suffered the closure of several factories, such as Ouman. The money will be used to finance transportation to jobs in other towns, as well as to provide incentives for agricultural work.



Forecast: Rain getting stronger during the day, stopping on Wednesday. Snow on the Hermon.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	04	25	cloudy
Berlin	12	10	cloudy
Buenos Aires	20	22	cloudy
Calo	08	48	clear
Chicago	02	26	cloudy
Copenhagen	01	20	cloudy
Geneva	04	25	cloudy
Helsinki	02	07	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	23	clear
London	15	21	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	22	clear
Madrid	07	45	clear
Moscow	07	17	cloudy
New York	05	15	cloudy
Paris	07	17	cloudy
Rome	03	15	cloudy
Sydney	02	15	clear
Tokyo	05	15	cloudy

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, 7 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### GSS gets extension on measures

The Ministerial Committee on the General Security Service yesterday extended by three months the GSS's permit to use "special" measures, including "moderate physical pressure," during interrogations.

The meeting was attended by outgoing GSS head Karmi Gilno and the new chief, Ami Ayalon. Missing from yesterday's deliberations was Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

#### 'Poland should return Jewish property'

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan met yesterday with Poland's Special Envoy to the Jewish Diaspora Kazimierz Slivinsky and told him his government should pass legislation to restore Jewish property lost during the Holocaust. Dayan suggested that such restitution begin with Jewish public property, the proceeds of which could be devoted to restoring many Jewish sites in Poland. He also asked for Poland to support the establishment of a museum of the heritage of Polish Jewry.

#### Knesset panel to discuss check cashing

The Knesset Finance Committee will hold a meeting next week on a television report stating that banks do not verify signatures on checks up to NIS 1,500. The banks explained that such checks are insured, so it is not worth the manpower to examine each signature. However, the committee wants to make sure customers are really protected.

#### Bill would ground overloaded truckers

Truck drivers who overload their vehicles by 25 percent or more above the legal limit, or who spend more hours behind the wheel than the law permits, could have their trucks grounded for 30 days, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Economics Committee for first reading yesterday. The bill, by Gideon Patt (Likud), was supported by Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, who noted that overloaded trucks accounted for about 40% of all accidents involving trucks last year.

#### Payis sales '95 reached NIS 1.65 b.

Mifal Hapayis sales last year amounted to some NIS 1.65 billion, director Gideon Gadot announced yesterday. This represents a 17 percent growth in lottery ticket sales over 1994, he said. Gadot singled out the "Hish-Gad" instant winner item as the sales growth leader; at NIS 510 million, it increased 45% compared to 1994. The Mifal Hapayis budget for 1996 is NIS 2.1b., up 23% over last year.



Paratroopers light memorial candles last night at Beit Lid, at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the terrorist bombing. Twenty soldiers and one civilian were killed, and scores wounded, in the assault by a suicide bomber. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

FIGS, DATES AND OTHER DRIED FRUIT AT FESTIVE PRICES

**FIGS** Dried, loose per 100g

**CHOICE APRICOT** per 100g

**PINE NUTS** per 100g

**WATERMELON SEEDS** per 100g

**MAHJUL DATES**  
Ermi dates  
Dekel Noor dates  
Blanched raisins  
Dark raisins  
Choice apricot  
Figs  
Prunes  
Candied banana  
Candied papaya  
Candied pineapple  
Carobs  
Apples  
Pears  
Leder  
Candied Chinese oranges  
Coconuts

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